



**Minority Media &  
Telecom Council**

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July 13, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Creation of A Low Power Radio Service, MM Docket No. 99-25

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

We write today to express our support for the Commission's recent action to implement the Local Community Radio Act and thus bring, for the first time, widespread availability of low power radio stations to urban communities. The civil rights community has long championed the expansion of radio in the public interest and the democratization of media access. Indeed, many civil rights organizations were among the first to call for the creation of a LPFM service.<sup>1</sup>

Low power radio is an important resource both for minority broadcasters and for the minority communities they serve. For broadcasters, low power radio provides an entry point to those who lack access to the capital needed to enter the full-power radio market.<sup>2</sup> The loss of EEO and the tax certificate policy, and the deregulation and consolidation of commercial radio ownership, have all raised barriers to minority ownership. For many communities, low power radio is a way to access vital programming otherwise unavailable.<sup>3</sup>

Limits imposed by Congress in 2000 have denied urban communities the benefit of LPFM radio for over a decade. With the passage of the Local Community Radio Act, the

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<sup>1</sup> See Reply Comments of MMTC, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and the League of United Latin American Citizens in response to RM-9208 (Low Power FM Radio), July 24, 1998; Letter to Roy Stewart, Esq. and William Kennard Esq. from David Honig, Executive Director, MMTC, August 6, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Policy Regarding the Advancement of Minority Ownership in Broadcasting, 92 FCC2d 849 (1982).

<sup>3</sup> "Racial, ethnic, or language minorities often lack the numerosity or economic and political clout to motivate a full power station to earmark its programming for them." MMTC Comments of MMTC et al., MM Docket 99-25 (filed August 3, 1999).

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Commission finally has the opportunity to bring LPFM to urban areas. Furthermore, the Act directs the Commission to ensure that spectrum is available for new LPFM stations, based on the needs of the local community.

Properly implementing Section 5 of the Local Community Radio Act requires the Commission to “ensure that licenses are available to ... low-power FM stations.” Pub.L. 111-371, §5. We commend the Commission for its diligence in conducting a detailed analysis of the top 150 markets in the country to ensure that sufficient opportunities for low power radio will be available in those markets. This market-by market approach will not only ensure sufficient spectrum for LPFM stations in more congested radio markets, this mechanism also provides for the rapid licensing of new translators in markets where such licensing would not unduly preclude new LPFM stations. Plentiful licensing opportunities in urban areas are essential if LPFM is to meet its potential as a means to diversify the airwaves.

We urge the Commission to ensure that the maximum number of LPFM stations are available in every community, including the largest urban markets. We thank the Commission for this step forward, and eagerly await the opportunity for all our communities to share in the benefits of low power radio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Honig', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Honig  
President and Executive Director

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